	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Telephone Cables Ltd. (TCL)	73.97	Natelco	63.44	GTC	118.36
9.	Shyam Telecom	67.49	Alcatel Modi Network Systems (AMNS)	58.31	Siemens	114.95
10.	Gujarat Telephone Cables (GTC)	64.50	UPCOM Cables Ltd.	56.01	TCL	111.05

Modification of Mining Licence

4183. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has modified the conditions for grant of prospecting licences for mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said modifications are likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Prospecting licenses are granted as per the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and no change in the provisions of the Act/Rules relating to the grant of prospecting licence has been made after 1994. Section 6 of the MMRD Act, 1957 provides that the Central Govt. in the interest of development of minerals may permit any person to acquire one or more prospecting licences in excess of the ceiling limit of 25 sq. kms. The Central Govt. has decided that it would consider request from State Govt. for grant of area in excess of the ceiling limit of 25 sq.kms. for which necessary guidelines have been issued to the State Govts. on 30.10.96. As per the guidelines the request for grant of area in excess of the ceiling limit would be considered under the following conditions :

(i) The Central Government would consider the requests of State Governments for grant of prospecting licences for larger areas only when the party seeking grant of such licence undertakes to carry out aerial prospecting over the area.

(ii) Such recommendations for grant of areas made by State Governments should not exceed 5,000 sq.kms. for a single prospecting licence, and the total aggregate area held by one single company shall not exceed 10,000 sq.kms. for the whole country.

(iii) This grant of large areas for prospecting licence shall be linked to a scheme of relinquishment. The area granted should be progressively surrendered so that after the completion of one year the area would be reduced to 1,000 sq.kms. or 50% of the area granted whichever is less. 50% of the remaining area would be surrendered on the completion of the second year. The area would have to be further relinquished so that the licencee is left with an area of 25 sq.kms. at the end of the third year.

(iv) The grant of larger areas would be linked to a minimum expenditure commitment or specific physical targets. State Governments would ensure that these targets/expenditure commitments are adhered to, failing which the prospecting licence would be cancelled.

(v) During aerial prospecting by private parties, besides conditions as may be imposed by the DGCA and Ministry of Defence, a representative of the Geological Survey of India would be ordinarily present during the aerial survey operations.

(vi) All data collected would be made available to the Indian Bureau of Mines as per the existing rules. This data would be stored in the Indian Bureau of Mines and would be available to the public after a gap of two years. However, data pertaining to the area for which a company seeks to apply for mining lease would be kept confidential so as not to hurt the commercial interests of the company.

Tourists Visits to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4184. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists intending to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands are reluctant to go there by ship;